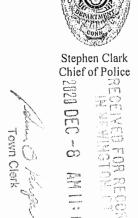


## TOWN OF NEWINGTON

300 Garfield Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

#### Police Department

# MINUTES POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL Zoom Meeting 7:00 P.M. December 2, 2020



In Attendance:

Chief Clark Mary Houle Todd Russell

Ashlee Taylor-Love-Kailas Town Councilor Gail Budrejko

Called to Order at 7:04 PM

### I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Staffing

The department currently has two police officer vacancies and is expected to have a third vacancy in January due to another retirement. The department is in a hiring process looking for both certified police officers and entry level officers.

C. Calls for Service January 1, 2020, to November 30, 2020 compared to same period last year. The results show continued increases in crime.

Burglary up 37%
Domestic Violence up 14%
Larceny up 13%
Car Breaks up 75%
Stolen Cars up 90%
Recover Stolen Cars up 142%

#### D. Activities

The department is beginning to post Newington police general orders on the police department website for the public to review. More orders will be posted in the near future.

#### II. STOLEN VEHICLES AND THEFTS

The department is experiencing a substantial increase in stolen vehicles and motor vehicle thefts. The department has increased patrols in residential neighborhoods.

Phone: (860) 666-8445 Fax: (860) 665-7688 npd@newingtonct.gov www.newingtonct.gov

Officers have made numerous attempts to stop suspicious and stolen vehicles. The vehicles fail to stop and engage officers in a pursuit. Pursuit policies prohibit officers from chasing these vehicles. The Town Council is drafting a letter to the Newington legislative delegation for assistance in curbing this problem hopefully through legislative actions.

#### III. JUVENILE DETENTION PROCEDURES

The current law states that no child may be placed in detention unless a judge of the Superior Court determines there is probable cause to believe that the child has committed the acts alleged and there is no appropriate less restrictive alternative available. Furthermore, that the level of risk that the child poses to public safety if released to the community prior to the court hearing cannot be managed in a less restrictive setting. Based on the present language it is very difficult to get a juvenile in detention.

IV. UPDATE HEADLIGHT & TAILLIGHT PROGRAM

The program is ready to implement and will start the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### V. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Sean Bevier

- Asked how often offenders are apprehended when fleeing from the police. Chief Clark responded: Not very often due to the vehicles and marker plates being stolen and identification being difficult.
- Wanted to know why the pursuit policies are so restrictive. Chief Clark responded: The policy is written by Connecticut's Police Officers Standards and Training Council and is based on how pursuits endanger the public, case law, and civil liability.

#### VI. MEMBER COMMENT

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark

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